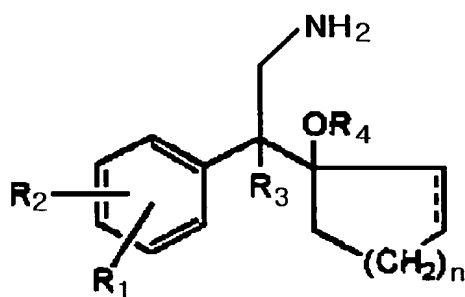


## ABSTRACT

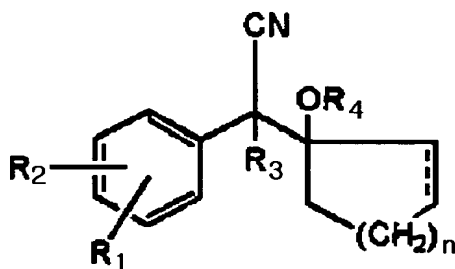
A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I,



(I)

wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are ortho or para substituents, independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_7$ - $C_9$  aralkoxy,  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkanoyloxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylmercapto, halo and trifluoromethyl;  $R_3$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl;  $R_4$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, formyl or  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkanoyl;  $n$  is one of the integers 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and the dotted line represents optional olefinic unsaturation;

comprising hydrogenating a compound of formula III,



(III)

in the presence of a nickel or cobalt catalyst at a temperature of about  $5^{\circ}C$  to  $25^{\circ}C$ .